

Mimulus Memo



JUNE 2017

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EVENTS

JUNE

14 – Piute Mountain,
Saddle Springs Road Field Trip
15 – Chapter Meeting, 6pm
Program, 7pm

JULY

20 – NO MEETING

AUGUST

17 – NO MEETING

SEPTEMBER

21 – Chapter Meeting, 6pm
Program, 7pm

Wildflowers and Waterfalls: Highlights of the Salt Creek Field Trip

by Nancy Nies

SNOW-CAPPED PEAKS, A LUSH GREEN CANYON, SHIMMERING waterfalls, and vibrant blooms awaited the eight Kern CNPS members who traveled north to Three Rivers on **April 29**, to join eight members of the Alta Peak chapter for a field trip in the **Salt Creek** area, led by BLM botanist **Denis Kearns**.

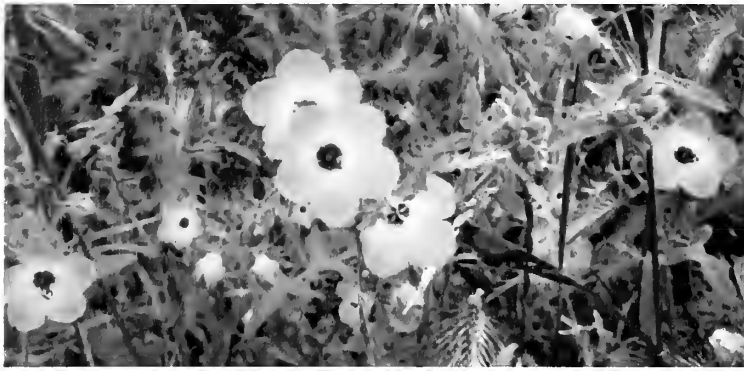
It was a beautiful morning for a drive up the valley. Turning east toward Sequoia and winding our way up into the foothills, we were treated to clear views of the snowy Sierra. Just beyond Three Rivers, we headed up a side road to meet the rest of our group. The Salt Creek area being under BLM jurisdiction, we were fortunate to have a connection allowing us access by car beyond the gate. We were thus able to drive a distance before continuing on foot. As we strolled up the road, we were awed by the view to the south -- the deep, wide Salt Creek Canyon, with its verdant Douglas oak woodland and its tiered waterfalls shining in the sun. And, along the road cut, we were excited to find an abundance of wildflowers in bloom.



Dudleya sp. (live-forever)

Among the day's highlights:

- Spotting a healthy *Dudleya sp.*, its stems absolutely perpendicular to the shaded rock crevice where it was growing, its orange blooms and fleshy green foliage standing out against the brown granite;
- Coming upon a large, shady cove filled with the tangled vines and lovely blue flowers of *Pholistoma auritum* (fiesta flower);
- Seeing lots of *Amsinckia intermedia* (fiddleneck) at the peak of its orange bloom — memorably intermixed, in one spot, with the reddish-purple blooms of *Castilleja exserta* (owl's clover);
- Noticing *Diplacus aurantiacus* (bush monkeyflower), with its masses



Pholistoma auritum (fiesta flower)

of soft-yellow flowers, at several places along the road;

- Enjoying the sight of a hillside covered by a maroon carpet of *Trifolium willdenovii* (tomcat clover);
- Appreciating the beauty of a stand of *Eschscholzia caespitosa* (foothill poppy), its yellow petals back-lit by the morning sun;
- Recognizing the blue and bluish-purple blooms of three species of lupine, *Lupinus albifrons* (silver bush lupine), *Lupinus benthamii* (spider lupine), and *Lupinus nanus* (sky lupine);



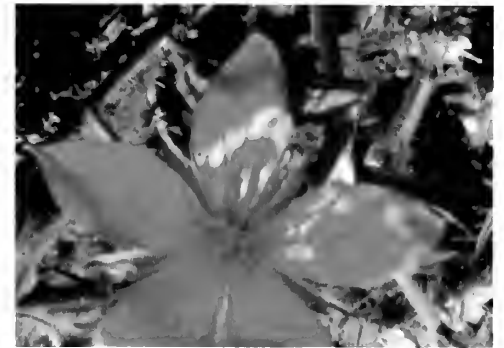
Trifolium willdenovii (tomcat clover)

ixioides (pretty face), alongside the trail;

- And finding *Papaver heterophyllum* (wind poppy) and *Calochortus amoenus* (purple fairy-lantern), blooming bright red and deep rose, respectively, on a cliff high above.

Many thanks go to **Patty Gradek** for organizing the Salt Creek field trip, and to **Denis Kearns** for

leading it. Get-well wishes go to **Martha Widmann** of the Alta Peak chapter, who injured her hand in a fall at the end of the day, in the hope that she'll remember the beauty of the rest of the trip. A day featuring a rainbow of spring wildflowers—not to mention commanding views of snow-covered mountains and a striking canyon, as well as the pleasing sight and sound of falling water — is a day never to be forgotten.



Mentzelia laevicaulis (giant blazing star)

Thank you to:

- ... **Rich Spjut** and **Paul Wilson** for sharing their knowledge of bryophytes on the bryophyte field trip.
- ... **Denis Kearns** for leading an instructive and enjoyable outing to Salt Creek, and **Patty Gradek** for organizing it.
- ... **Ann Huber** and **Rob Hansen**, who brought us important, if sometimes disturbing, lessons about valley oaks and their history and future in the Tulare Basin.
- ... to **Mitchell Coleman** for teaching us about *Atriplex polycarpa* and the role of residual dry grass matter in propagation.
- ... to **Aaron Sims** for reminding us about rare-plant studies and their importance.
- ... to **Dorie Giragosian** and **Monica Tudor** for their great job in organizing the wild-flower displays and plant sale at the BC Garden Fest. ✿

President's Message

Recent & Future 2017 Field Trips

by Rich Spjut

BRYOPHYTE FIELD TRIP ~

OUR FIRST CHAPTER FIELD TRIP THIS YEAR was led by **Paul S. Wilson** and myself in order



Close-up of moss, *Hedwigia detonsa*.

to share knowledge of the field identification of common bryophyte species in the Kern River Canyon. Professor Wilson had previously presented an introduction to bryophytes (mosses, liverworts, hornworts) at our chapter's November 2016 meeting.

On two occasions, we scouted for suitable places where field participants might observe bryophytes without having to climb steep banks and crawl over rocks (as bryologists often do). We also photographed and collected specimens. At our March 4 rendezvous in Bakersfield, Dr. Wilson presented participants with a photo brochure showing close-up images of 16 species of mosses and three species of liverworts that we might expect to see — and did indeed see — on the trip, although names for many were only to genus.

MOJAVE DESERT FIELD TRIP ~

In our last newsletter, I mentioned it might be a good year for wildflowers in Kern County judging from the winter rains; however, it seems that in many places east of Bakersfield it was mostly lush growth of non-native grasses that may have prevented any native wildflowers to get started this year. This, along with recent concerns about Red Rock Canyon State Park's opening up to off-highway vehicles, led me to modify the plans for the April 12 Mojave Desert trip.

Rare California plants in the state park, currently protected, could become federally-listed if the park were to be opened to the off-roaders. We saw two in a sandy wash just south of the park entrance; one, *Deinandra arida* (red rock tar plant), is endemic to Kern County (LIST 1B.2) and the other, *Erythranthe rhodopetra* (red rock monkey flower, *Mimulus palmeri* in Iepson 2nd ed.), is essentially endemic to the park (LIST 1B.1). Prior to our visit, **Suzanne Weller** had reported seeing many wildflowers in a wash the week before, particularly in the sandy wash we visited where she had photographed the red rock monkey flower. It was also



Monkey flower bouquet in sandy wash, Red Rock Canyon State Park. *Erythranthe rhodopetra* (Red rock monkey flower), a rare species surrounded by *Erythranthe guttata* var. *montana* (common yellow monkey flower, formerly known as *Mimulus guttatus*).

recently reported on *Calflora* by **Lara Hartley** (May 2, 2017) — “wash near picnic area behind Red Rooster at Red Rock Canyon State Park.”

At the end of the day, I summarized what we saw and sent the list to the participants. **Clyde Golden** then refined the list to variety or subspecies for many of the species I had listed, though our lists differ slightly in family classification. I have linked Clyde's list to the trip title on the chapter website. Our field trip participants included one person — **Eric Diesel** — who drove from Yucca Valley to meet us at the town of Mojave where we began the trip.

PIUTE MOUNTAIN FIELD TRIP, SADDLE SPRINGS ROAD JUNE 14~

This will be similar to the trip led by “**Nature Ali**” (**Alison Sheehy**) on **June 1, 2013**. Her description of the route can be found on the chapter website under past field trips. Quoting from her 2013 trip description: “Rare plants along the route include the *Streptanthus cordatus* var. *pintensis* (Piute jewel flower); *Eriogonum breedlovei* var. *breedlovei* (Piute buckwheat); *Delphinium inopinum* (unexpected larkspur); *Hesperocypsis nevadensis* (Piute cypress); *Calochortus palmeri* (Palmer's mariposa lily) and *Perideridia pringlei* (adobe yampah).”

We discovered another rare plant that trip — *Sidalcea hickmanii* ssp. *parishii* — Parish's checkerbloom (LIST 1B.2) — not yet officially recorded from Kern County — is a species that occurs in



Sidalcea hickmanii ssp. *parishii* (Parish's checkerbloom)



Photo — Richard Spjut

A common manzanita, not previously reported in Kern County — *Arctostaphylos glandulosa* ssp. *glandulosa* (Eastwood's manzanita). **Left:** Twigs, leaves and inflorescence before flowering, all with glandular tipped hairs. **Right:** Shows closer view of leaf-like bracts.

Western Transverse Ranges and San Bernardino Mts. We will probably see it again in the Piute cypress woodland. By then, I hope to have submitted specimens I collected in 2013 and 2016 to several herbaria. (I have been tied up with identifying more than 1,000 lichen specimens from Baja).

Additionally, another new record is reported here for the county, *Arctostaphylos glandulosa* ssp. *glandulosa*, a common shrub in the chaparral of the California Floristic Province.

It may be noted that the *Perideridia* — observed in 2016 as abundant in the juniper woodland — may be difficult to identify when flowering. This is because at that stage, the character needed to identify the species, the leaves, may have dried and blown away. Both *P. parishii* ssp. *latifolia* and *P. pringlei* have been reported from the area. A checklist of the Piute plants, prepared by **Clyde Golden**, has it listed on the chapter website, highlighting what we saw in 2013; *P. parishii* was observed, as I recall, in the Jeffrey pine



Photo — Richard Spjut

Two species with umbels of flowers: the white flowers, *Perideridia*, appearing to be *P. pringlei* (Adobe yampah) by the relatively small number of rays, a rare species photographed June 9, 2016 along Saddle Springs Road near junction to Bodfish Road, Piute Mt. Bipinnate Leaves not evident, a key character for distinguishing the species' related species, especially *P. parishii*, which has been reported from this area. Yellow flowers are *Bloomeria crocea* var. *montana*.

forest where expected. The juniper woodland, with *Perideridia*, commonly with 6 rays to their umbels agrees, more with 5–7-flowered umbels of *P. pringlei*, than with those of the 6–11-rayed *P. parishii* ssp. *latifolia*. ☼

Chapter Meetings

upcoming TOPICS

Thursday, June 15, 2017 - 7 pm

Presenter: **Ellen Cypher**

Creating New Populations of au

Endangered Species: Recovery Efforts
for Bakersfield Cactus

JULY - NO MEETING

AUGUST - NO MEETING

Thursday, September 21, 2017 - 7 pm

Presenter: **Stephen Cooley**

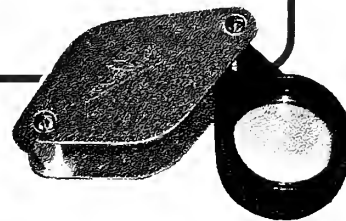
Growing Natives from Seed

All chapter meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Hall Ambulance Community Room 1031 21st Street (21st & N St.), Bakersfield, CA.

Meeting times:

6pm — Discussion groups on plant identification and native-plant gardening

7pm — Program presentation



FIELD TRIP

June 14, Wednesday

PIUTE MOUNTAIN/SADDLE SPRINGS ROAD with **Richard Spjut**. We will stop along the vegetation alliances we see as we ascend up the mountain: California juniper woodland, Piute cypress woodland, an extensive chaparral and finally Jeffrey pine forest where we will stop for lunch.

Contact: **Patty Gradek** — pattygradek@gmail.com



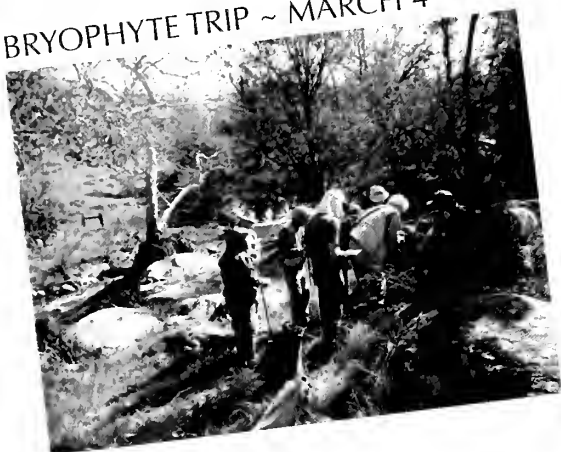
RSVP Deadline: **8 pm, Friday, June 9**

ALL DAY - High-clearance vehicle with good tires and 4-wheel-drive a plus.

Meet at shopping center parking lot near Tuesday Morning store, north side of Exit 7 off Hwy 178 at 8:30 AM ☼

2017 — Photo Gallery Field Trips

BRYOPHYTE TRIP ~ MARCH 4



WIND WOLVES ~ APRIL 23



IPA MAPPING CONFERENCE ~ FEB



HUNGRY VALLEY ~ APRIL 2



SALT CREEK

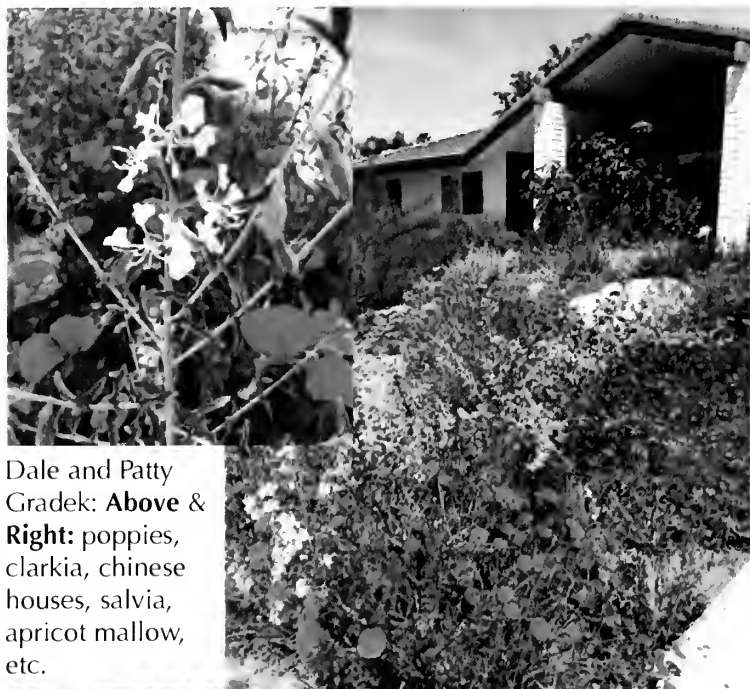


~ APRIL 29



Photo credits:
Clyde Golden
Nancy Nies
Rich Spjut
Dinah Campbell

2017 — Photo Gallery (cont.) Member Gardens in Spring



Dale and Patty Gradek: **Above & Right:** poppies, clarkia, chinese houses, salvia, apricot mallow, etc.

Photos — Patty Gradek



Sasha and Andy Honig: **Left:** wild rose; **Below:** side-yard planted with muhlenbergia, 4 kinds of yarrow, Shasta sulphur buckwheat, 4-5 kinds of salvias, and a bladderpod.



Dave and Dinah Campbell: **Below:** *Epilobium canum*, *Erythranthe cardinalis* and non-native rockrose under a *Cercis occidentalis* (western redbud).



Photo — Dinah Campbell

Garden Notebook: Early Summer

by Monica Tudor

MY CALIFORNIA GARDEN IS TRANSITIONing from springtime mode to summer. Spring! All the springtime flowers have bloomed. The balmy weather in the 70s and 80s helped prolong the season. After all these years growing my garden, the consistent bloomers did not disappoint. *Baileya multiradiata*, (desert marigold) and *Isomeris arborea* (bladderpod) are basically always in bloom and *Salvia brandegeei* * Brandegee's sage) is an early pale-lavender bloomer while *Ceanothus* 'Concha' was stunning with its deep, intensely blue flowers. Of course, the state flower, the California poppy, was prolific and bright orange as is *Sphaeralcea ambigua* (desert mallow). The elegant clarkias have have bloomed and seeded already.

Current bloomers are the 'Allan Chickering' and 'Winifred Gilman' sages, the common and moonshine yarrows and the matilija poppies. The matilija poppies are amazing and have a scent that is sweeter than perfume. I've been warned that they

can become invasive, but at the moment I don't care. Some new plants from the fall plant sale have also done well: *Penstemon pseudospectabilis* gave me several spikes of magenta blooms while *Penstemon eatonii* only gave me one, but it was spectacular and the hummingbirds loved it.

This year I was finally smart and didn't let the weeds get too out of hand, even with the glorious rain we got. The mulch that was put down last year helped tremendously, so the majority of the weeds were in



Sphaeralcea ambigua (apricot mallow)



Mirabilis multiflora (desert four-o'clock)

All photos — Monica Tudor



'Allen Chickering' sage and
matilija poppy

the pathways. After only a few hours, the weeds were history! Now the maintenance is simply getting the hula hoe, to get the occasional weedy stragglers out of the paths and beds, and raking the paths. I like the look of raked paths. The evenly spaced grooves left by the tines are soothing, somehow. I imagine

the Japanese gardens with raked gravel and rocks and feel in harmony . . . well, at least until I remember the raked gravel in a Japanese garden represents waves of water while my garden is xeriscaped. So they are related but opposite — in a ying / yang way.

Even though we were blessed with nearly double our usual rainfall, we need to remember that we are still in a desert climate. Our eyes are trained to see green lawns as beautiful and sometimes we have a hard time adjusting our aesthetic point of view to appreciate xeriscaped areas. But a well-designed yard is a well-designed yard, especially if it is xeriscaped and native. (My bias is showing, I know.) We can save lots of water for other uses (growing food!) if we limit water usage for non-essentials. According to the City of Bakersfield website, 30% of residential water usage is for yards. Take a look at Tucson, Arizona, for example. Tucson has almost double the rain of Bakersfield. They get 11.92 inches per year versus 6.45 inches for Bakersfield. Even so, Tucson limits plantings in new developments to drought-tolerant varieties and allows for "oases", or green areas, that are only between 2.5% and 5% of the total lot size. Is this something we could do? If the drought had continued, public sentiment may have seen the need. However, we can each do something now, and that is to plant California natives.

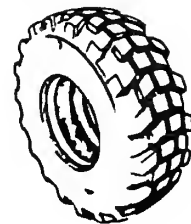
Thank you to all the volunteers who made this year's event at the **Garden Fest** successful. We literally could not do it without you! ☘

CONSERVATION CORNER

by Fred Chynoweth

CNPS HAS TEAMED WITH OTHER NGOs and **Senator Ben Allen** to produce a bill to reform how state parks manage off-road vehicles.

Please contact your state senator to urge passage. An email has been sent to Kern chapter members to assist them.



SB249 includes:

CONSERVATION:

- Adds important requirements and **transparency** to conservation and **wildlife protection measures** intended to minimize damage from motorized recreation, including:
- Requires **periodic wildlife inventories** or updating of **habitat protection plans**
- Requires **closing areas** if wildlife and habitat protection measure cannot be met.
- SB 249 calls for a review and incorporation of the **latest and best scientific information**.

FUNDING

- Distributes **fuel tax** money more equitably between motorized and non-motorized recreational uses.

The only way to objectively and reliably ensure that the appropriate portion of fuel tax supports motorized recreation is to base the amount transferred to **OHMVR Trust Fund** for motorized recreational uses each year on state Fuel Tax Study findings.

GOVERNANCE

- **Clarifies state parks organizational structure** and guarantees transparency.
- SB 249 makes it clear that the **responsibilities** of the Division are under the general direction of the **State Parks Director**.

SB249 DOES NOT threaten to eliminate OHV activity from state parks or from California by starving the OHMVR Program of money.

For further information, you may go online to the CNPS website under conservation, statewide initiatives. (http://www.cnps.org/cnps/conservation/actions/ohv_reform/index.php) ☘





Mimulus Memo

Inside this Issue:

- SALT CREEK
- FIELD TRIP OBSERVATIONS
- CONSERVATION CORNER
- PHOTO GALLERIES
- MEETING PLACE, DATES & TOPICS



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The Kern Chapter of the



California Native Plant Society meets
the third Thursday of each month at:
Hall Ambulance Community Room
1013 21st St. (21st & N St.), Bakersfield, CA.
Chapter website: kern.cnps.org

The California Native Plant Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of California native plants and their natural habitats, and to increasing the understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants. CNPS has 31 chapters throughout the state and membership is open to all persons — professional and amateur — with an interest in California's native plants. Members have diverse interests including natural history, botany, ecology, conservation, photography, drawing, hiking and gardening. As a Kern County resident, your membership includes Eremontia, a quarterly journal with articles on all aspects of native plants; the Bulletin, a statewide report of activities and schedules; and The Mimulus Memo, the newsletter of the Kern Chapter.

Join CNPS or renew your membership online at www.cnps.org.
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Individual – \$45
Family or Library – \$75